

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) A catalyst for the synthesis of methyl mercaptan, obtainable from aluminum oxide, an alkali metal tungstate and at least one further component selected from the groups of the ammonium salts and of the protic acids sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, sulfurous acid, tungstic acid, phosphorous acid, hypophosphorous acid, or a mixture thereof, wherein the pH of the catalyst, measured on a 10% strength aqueous suspension, is in the range from 5.0 to 9.7.
2. (Original) The catalyst according to claim 1 which is obtainable from aluminum oxide, an alkali metal tungstate and at least one ammonium salt.
3. (Currently Amended) The catalyst according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the alkali metal tungstate used is a potassium tungstate.
4. (Currently Amended) The catalyst according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ammonium salts used are sulfates, phosphates, sulfides, tungstates, molybdates, sulfites, peroxodisulfates, phosphites and hypophosphites.
5. (Currently Amended) The catalyst according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ammonium salts used are sulfur- or phosphorus-comprising salts or tungstate salts.
6. (Currently Amended) The catalyst according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein alkali metal tungstates are applied in an amount of from 10 to 16% by weight, based on the total mass of the catalyst.
7. (Currently Amended) The catalyst according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ammonium salts are applied in an amount of from 0.01 to 15% by weight, based on the total mass of the catalyst.
8. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing methyl mercaptams by reacting methanol with hydrogen sulfide, wherein a catalyst according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 is used.
9. (Original) The process according to claim 8, wherein hydrogen sulfide and methanol are used in a molar ratio of from 1 : 1 to 2 : 1 in the preparation of methyl mercaptams.

10. (New) The catalyst according to claim 2, wherein the alkali metal tungstate used is a potassium tungstate.
11. (New) The catalyst according to claim 2, wherein ammonium salts used are sulfates, phosphates, sulfides, tungstates, molybdates, sulfites, peroxodisulfates, phosphites and hypophosphites.
12. (New) The catalyst according to claim 2, wherein ammonium salts used are sulfur- or phosphorus-comprising salts or tungstate salts.
13. (New) The catalyst according to claim 2, wherein alkali metal tungstates are applied in an amount of from 10 to 16% by weight, based on the total mass of the catalyst.
14. The catalyst according to claim 2, wherein ammonium salts are applied in an amount of from 0.01 to 15% by weight, based on the total mass of the catalyst.
15. (New) A process for preparing methyl mercaptams by reacting methanol with hydrogen sulfide, wherein a catalyst according to claim 2 is used.
16. (New) A process for preparing methyl mercaptams by reacting methanol with hydrogen sulfide, wherein a catalyst according to claim 3 is used.
17. (New) A process for preparing methyl mercaptams by reacting methanol with hydrogen sulfide, wherein a catalyst according to claim 4 is used.
18. (New) A process for preparing methyl mercaptams by reacting methanol with hydrogen sulfide, wherein a catalyst according to claim 5 is used.
19. (New) A process for preparing methyl mercaptams by reacting methanol with hydrogen sulfide, wherein a catalyst according to claim 6 is used.
20. (New) A process for preparing methyl mercaptams by reacting methanol with hydrogen sulfide, wherein a catalyst according to claim 7 is used.